

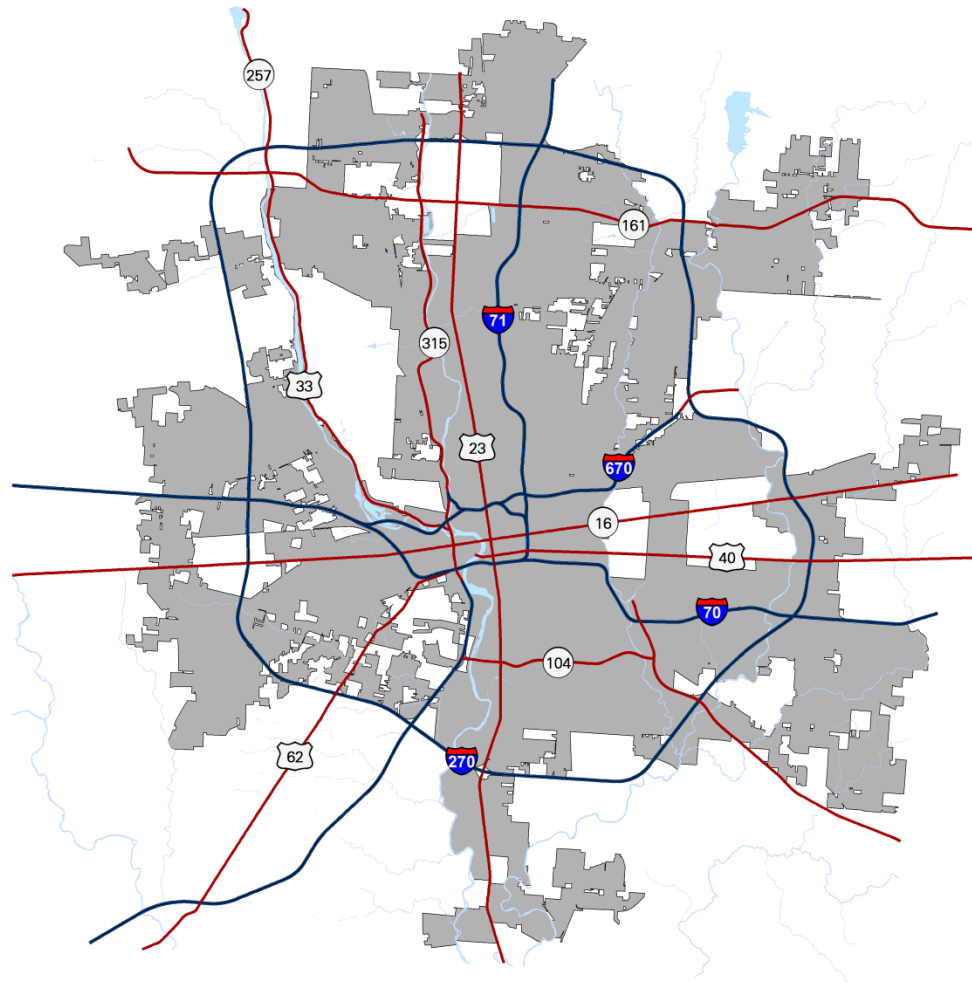
Districting

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
CHARTER REVIEW
COMMITTEE

Columbus City Charter

This would be entirely new sections of charter, to be written and enacted by Council for the first time in 103 years.

Corporate boundaries of Columbus



Best practices

- FairVote
- Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
 - Congressional Research Service
 - Ballotpedia
- Loyola Law School in Los Angeles

Decennial review

Accepted practice

The overwhelming majority of bodies that district/redistrict do so after the decennial federal census.

Rationale

In order for the districting body to work with the most accurate and up-to-date information, districting after the federal census is the most efficient and fair method.

Commonly accepted criteria

Population considerations

- Equality of population size
- Protection of racial and language minority against vote dilution
- Cannot overtly favor one political party

Geographic considerations

- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Maintenance of “communities of interest”

Who draws the map?

Legislative districting

- Most popular form of districting;
- The legislative authority creates and implements the map;
- Must follow criteria established in City Code;
- Usually subject to executive veto.

Citizen's commission

- Second most popular form of districting;
- A group of citizens are appointed to draw one or more plans and submit to the legislative authority;
- Must follow criteria established in City Code;

Best practices

Public input

- Make the data used to draw the lines publicly available;
- Hold public hearings prior to the unveiling of maps;
- Provide mechanisms to solicit and respond to public feedback after maps are produced

Transparency

- Require public meetings;
- Should the districting authority have to offer any explanation of the plan?

Best practices, cont'd

Composition

- Will individuals who draw the lines be permitted to run for office?
- Do the individuals appointed reflect sufficient diversity?

Results

- Have minority populations been “cracked” or “packed”?
- If communities of interest are drawn apart, is there a sensible reason?
- Maps cannot overtly favor one political party

Questions?

